

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 3, wherein the electronic currency is exchanged at a currency exchange web site, and wherein a request for the exchange is transmitted to the currency exchange web site via a secured communication.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising purchasing goods or services using the electronic currency in the first or second trader's account, the goods or services being offered for sale by an on-line vendor via a web site on the Internet.

7. (Amended) The method according to claim 5, wherein the vendor debits the first or second trader's account in the electronic currency for the purchase of goods or services via a secured communication.

11. (Amended) The system according to claim 9, further comprising means for exchanging the electronic currency in the first or second trader's account for desired currency.

12. (Amended) The system according to claim 9, further comprising means for purchasing goods or services using the electronic currency in the first or second trader's account, the goods or services being offered for sale by an on-line vendor via a web site on the Internet.